

August 29, 2007

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:
www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

We Want To Hear From You

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

How Can You Participate in Howard County Government?

Your comments are welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax. All legislative public hearings will take place in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building. Click the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation

The County Council is responsible for adopting the laws of the County. The legislative process generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

***NOTE:** The County Council will be in legislative recess during the month of August. The next legislative session will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., Banneker Room, George Howard Building.

The Columbia Association Launch a New Community Calendar

CA in conjunction with the Villages of Columbia, announce the launch of a new website, www.ColumbiaCalendar.org. This new website has been created to be a resource for the residents of Columbia to find out what is going on in their community. At this time the website is packed with events sponsored by the Columbia Association and the Villages. The Oakland Mills calendar can be found at http://oaklandmills.columbiavillages.org/OMCA_Events_Programs.htm

The Long Reach calendar can be found at http://www.columbiacalendar.org:8080/View.html?calendar_id=8

Homeowners Tax Credit and Renters Tax Credit Applications- Now Available!

The 2007 Homeowners Tax Credit and Renters Tax Credit applications are available at: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html>

There is no charge to apply and nothing to lose by doing so.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to view the following link http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

Who's Digging in Your Community?

Many of our constituents have brought to our attention issues concerning utility contractors digging in their community. Many of these contractors are sub-contractors of major utility companies. To determine the name of the contractor and the utility company they are representing, please go to www.missutility.net . This website is very informative and frequently updated with up-to-the-minute information on each and every project involving excavation around utilities.

For additional information, please call Miss Utility at **(410) 712-0056**

School Crossing Guards Needed

With the start of the new school year, the Howard County Police Department is looking for School Crossing Guards to help our children safely cross intersections near schools in Howard County. Our Crossing Guards are reliable and responsible adults who interact well with children and are committed to their safety. We want YOU because we currently have openings at your child's school.

Interested? Please click the following link for additional information. <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Police/Docs/schoolcrossingguards.pdf>

Or you may contact **Ms. Carol Bess**, School Crossing Guard Supervisor, at **410-313-4754**.

BRAC- Get Involved!

The Howard County BRAC Task Force has now moved to into phase II of its work. Phase II will focus on the impact of overall Fort Meade growth on 6 specific areas in Howard County. They are: Work Force Development, Transportation, Education, Infrastructure, Work Force Housing and Health and Human Services. Residents and business persons of Howard County are invited to participate in the work of the Task Force during this phase. If you are interested, please contact the

Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office at
kmenser@howardcountymd.gov

The next Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 26, 2007** from **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. This meeting will be held in **the Tyson Room of the George Howard Building**. These meetings will start with a 15 minute update, given by Executive Director Kent Menser, on BRAC actions related to Howard County. The remainder of the time will be devoted to discussion of ideas, concerns and recommendations raised by the attendees. For any questions on meetings, call Kent Menser at 410-313-6521.

For more information on BRAC please visit
http://www.co.ho.md.us/HCG_ExecutiveBRAC.htm

Help Save Lives!- Emergency Blood Drive August 31st!

The American Red Cross will be holding an emergency blood drive at The Other Barn to help increase the critically low blood supply on:

Friday, August 31, 2007
1:00 PM- 5:30PM
Smithy Tack Room
5851 Robert Oliver Place

Please contact:
Chrystel Bell at **443-506-7014** or bellchrys@usa.redcross.org to schedule your life-saving donation.

Howard County Police to Focus on Speed Enforcement in School Zones

As children prepare to return to school next week, Howard County Police are working to ensure that students, parents and teachers arrive safely. Through a continuing back-to-school program, officers will focus on enforcing speed, seat belt and child safety seat laws in school zones.

The H.A.S.T.E. program (Helping Arriving Students Through Enforcement) was implemented several years ago by the Howard County Police Department to raise awareness about traffic safety in school zones. Targeted patrols will be in place on roadways surrounding elementary, middle and high schools for the first two weeks of the school year.

Officers will use radar and other methods to identify drivers who are speeding in those areas. The police department also will use a speed camera to issue warnings with photos to speeders in school zones.

In addition to keeping pedestrians from harm, police will work to keep those in vehicles safe as well. As parents and high-school students drive to school, officers will check for seat belt and child safety seat use to ensure that all children, teenagers and adults are properly restrained.

Police also are reminding drivers that they are required to stop for school buses with red lights flashing. Officers in covert vehicles will follow school buses to watch for drivers who fail to stop. The fine for this violation is \$570.

Community Advisory Council Seeks At-large Members

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) to the Board of Education is seeking at-large members for the 2007-2008 school year. The CAC is a group of citizens and representatives from local PTAs that serves in an advisory capacity to the elected school board. The CAC sponsors educational programming for members and provides them with the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, education policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee generally meets at **7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month** in the Board Room at the Department of Education in Ellicott City. At-large members serve a two-year term. **For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682.**

Sign Up For the “Greenovation”: How to be Green!

On **Saturday, September 8th**, the Green Building Institute is sponsoring an introductory class on **How to be Green**. The seminar will cover the following modules:

- Efficient and healthy buildings
- Solar hot water for your home
- Rainwater collection for garden use
- Solar electric for your home
- What is composting?

The seminar will be held at the Green Building Institute in The Enviro-Center at 7761 Waterloo Road) (Rte. 175), Jessup, Maryland 20794. Registration, check-in, and EnviroCenter Tour will begin at 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. The seminar modules will begin at 9:15 a.m. and continue to 4:15 p.m. (with lunch).

For more information and registration please visit www.greenbuildinginstitute.org or you may call the institute at 443-733-1234.

The Columbia Association Begins Two-Year Budget Process

The Columbia Association (CA) Planning and Strategy Committee will host a pre-budget input session for the community on **Monday, September 10 at 7:30pm for fiscal years 2009 and 2010**.

Community participation is strongly encouraged as this is the first of a number of opportunities to provide input for the operating and capital budgets for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

The input and ideas gathered during this meeting will be discussed at the Board of Directors work session to be hosted by the Planning and Strategy Committee on Thursday, October 11 at 6pm. At this pre-budget direction work session, the Board will work on developing directions to staff for the budgets based on input from the public pre-

budget input session, Board members, staff, Villages and advisory committees.

The pre-budget input session on **September 10, 2007 at 7:30pm** will take place at CA Headquarters at **10221 Wincopin Circle**, above Clyde's. To view the two-year budget schedule, please visit www.columbiaassociation.com under What's New.

September 11 Remembrance Ceremony

To honor the heroes who gave their lives for our country on **September 11, 2001**, during the terrorist attacks on our nation, the county will hold a ceremony marked by a wreath-laying and the presentation of colors by the Howard County Police & Fire Honor Guard. All are welcome at the Garden of Hope stone monument to remember the individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice. Those who attend will be invited to place ribbons on the "Tree of Hope" as a personal remembrance.

Centennial Park South, Garden of Hope Monument, 10,000 Rt. 108, Ellicott City / **6 pm** / Contact: Office of Public Information, **(410) 313-2022**

Learn How to Build an Earth Home!

On **Tuesday, September, 11th**, John Spears, President of the Sustainable Design Group will hold a seminar entitled ***Earth Home: Building Self-Sufficient Homes***. The seminar will cover the following modules:

- **What is Earth Home?**
A fully integrated self sufficient building system that uses local materials to meet all the needs of the occupants for comfort, water, sanitary waste, electricity, hot water and cooking, without the need for central power, water or sewer.
- **What are the components of an Earth Home?**
- **What topics will be covered in the program?**
 - Compressed Earth Brick Construction

- Rain Water Systems
- Composting Toilet
- Grey Water System
- Solar Water Heater
- Solar Electricity
- Solar Oven
- Environmental Responsive Building Design

6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Check-In

7:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. Earth Home

Location:

Green Building Institute

@ The Enviro-Center

7761 Waterloo Road (Rte. 175)

Jessup, MD 20794

For more information and registration please visit

www.greenbuildinginstitute.org or you may call the institute at
443-733-1234.

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair- September 29th!

County Executive Ken Ulman and the Department of Housing are pleased to announce the County's next "Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair. The Fair is an opportunity for residents to meet with a full range of exhibitors and participate in a series of educational sessions focused on renting, buying and improving your home. Exhibitors include real estate professionals, mortgage lenders, title companies, rental management companies, developers, governmental partners and area non-profit organizations. The fair will also feature guided bus tours of Howard County neighborhoods targeting specific demographic groups: young professionals, growing families and seniors. Giveaways will be given out throughout the day. The event is free and open to the public.

Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia / **10 am to 2 pm** / Contact: Department of Housing & Community Development, **(410) 313-6318**

Environmental Course Offered for Low- to Moderate-Income Residents- December 1st!

Going environmentally friendly doesn't have to mean spending hundreds on solar panels and a green roof.

The Green Building Institute in Jessup is reaching out to low- and moderate-income Howard residents for a free course on how to save with environmentally friendly practices.

"This class is providing ways they can be part of the discussion," said Hannah Wood, executive director of the institute, an educational nonprofit.

The class, scheduled for December, is free for eligible residents, in part because of a \$3,000 grant from the Columbia Foundation. Classes usually cost \$15 to \$75.

"They're teaching ways in which everyone can be involved, no matter your income level or socioeconomic status," said Candace Dodson Reed, Columbia Foundation's associate director.

It's the "little steps," Wood said, that can help residents save money. Compact florescent light bulbs, for example, may cost several extra dollars in the beginning but can save money in energy costs, she said.

There is space for 40 residents to take the class, and the group wants people to sign up this summer so it can plan the course.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

To take the free Go Green, Save Green course, participants must:

- Live in Howard County

- Make \$25,000 or less for an individual or \$50,000 or less for families

To sign up, call **443-733-1234** or visit **greenbuildinginstitute.org**.

IF YOU GO

What: Go Green, Save Green course

When: 8:30 a.m. to noon Dec. 1

Where: Green Building Institute at the EnviroCenter, 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup

NEIGHBOR RIDE- Looking for Spanish and Korean Speaking Volunteers!

Neighbor Ride, a volunteer-based supplemental transportation program, helps residents age 60 and over maintain a good quality of life by providing friendly and reliable door-to-door transportation for medical appointments, religious services, educational pursuits, recreational and social events, exercise classes, and other day-to-day activities.

* Neighbor Ride is looking for Spanish and Korean speaking volunteers to become drivers who can converse with bi-lingual riders.

For more information and to register for a volunteer orientation, contact Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE, volunteer@neighborride.org or visit their website at <http://www.neighborride.org/>

US Route 1 State Highway Meeting Materials Now Available

Following up on the June 18 and June 20 public meetings, the PowerPoint presentation and maps displayed at the meetings are now posted on Howard County's Web site at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/us1shastrategy.htm>

Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) consultants, Kittelson and Associates, in partnership with Howard County held public informational meetings on SHA's Route 1 Corridor Improvement Strategy. The strategy's focus is transportation improvements to support Howard County's vision for revitalization of the Route 1 corridor.

We hope these materials will help you in understanding the issues and recommendations presented by SHA's consultants so far.

If you have questions you may contact **Dace Blaumanis** at **410-313-4324** or by email dblaumanis@howardcountymd.gov